

DOS REVIEWED 21 MAR 2011 NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 17, 1975

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR: Major General John A. Wickham, Jr., USA
Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Training of Egyptian Military Forces

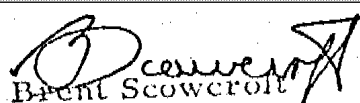
On February 10, the President authorized the provision of military training to members of the Egyptian armed forces under arrangements to be agreed between the two governments.

The modalities of implementing this decision and the broader question of U.S. policy toward other military assistance to Egypt remain under review. At this time, however, it is requested that the Department issue the necessary instructions to authorize the U.S. Defense Attache in Cairo to initiate discussions with the Egyptian military representatives on those details which normally must be addressed prior to the conclusion of bilateral agreements for training assistance. There are no restrictions on the character of training which may be discussed with the Egyptian military representatives.

No actual contracts or agreements should be concluded until the Presidential Determination authorizing such contracts is issued formally.

As the talks proceed it is requested that this office be kept advised of progress and problem areas.

OSD REVIEWED 22-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION


Brent Scowcroft
Lieutenant General, USAF
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

OUTSIDE SYSTEM

ACTION
1622X

SECRET/SENSITIVE/GDS

March 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM:

CLINTON GRANGER *cl*
ARTHUR HOUGHTON *ah*

SUBJECT:

Egyptian Army Training

The problem Bob Oakley discusses in his telegram to you of this morning (Tab C) is essentially this: will DOD allow George Guay to talk concrete terms with the Egyptians without a formal authorization or direction from the NSC to do so? Until now, DOD has taken the position that they cannot, and that until such time as a Determination has been formally issued (the present restricted Determination authorizing training is being held pending a decision by the Secretary as to whether it should be reissued in unrestricted form) Guay should not discuss the subject with the Egyptian Army.

In fact, there is nothing that specifically prohibits Defense from such discussion with the Egyptians on training, or from authorizing Guay to discuss it in detail. The reluctance stems from a keen interest in not being exposed, should this sensitive issue go public, without clear authority.

It may be possible to overcome this obstacle by discussing the requirement for prompt discussions by General Guay with General Wickham making the following points:

--The present, restricted Determination authorizing training is being held administratively until the Secretary determines if it should be issued or whether an unrestricted Determination may be politically possible after the current round of settlement talks. It is valid, however, and embraces all types of training, combat training included.

SECRET/SENSITIVE GDS

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b. While plans for training on the basis of the current Determination cannot be finalized, or money appropriated, there is nothing which would legally prevent us from discussing concrete arrangements with Egypt.

c. The Egyptian military is becoming increasingly convinced that we are deliberately stalling on the training issue. It is in our broader interest, and within DOD's specific interest, to maintain a constructive relationship with the Egyptian Army, to which we had virtually no access from 1967 until the arrival of our Defense Attache in Cairo. General Guay has had very little with to which to maintain a mutually beneficial relationship, and while the training issue is relatively minor, it is becoming a test of his credibility.

In the event that General Wickham concurs, a suggested telegram replying to Bob Oakley is attached at Tab A.

The above suggested approach may not work, and DOD may continue to hesitate until they receive a clear-cut authorization to move ahead. In this eventuality, a suggested alternate response to Bob Oakley is attached at Tab B.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That if DOD agrees to authorize George Guay to proceed with concrete planning on U. S. military training for Egyptians, you authorize the suggested telegram at Tab A, or as amended.

Approve AD Disapprove _____

*Cabled 3/22/7
12:15 pm*

2. Alternatively, if DOD does not agree, that you authorize the suggested telegram at Tab B, or as amended.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

SECRET

TO BORG/ADAMS PLEASE PASS ROBERT OAKLEY

FROM: ~~LT. GEN.~~ BRENT SCOWCROFT *RCM for*

REF: HAKTO 48

1) I have discussed matter with Defense and they recognize need for Guay to proceed with concrete talks with Egyptians about details of training, including combat training.

2) George Guay should ^{have} receive authorization ^{to proceed} on this basis ^{by this} ~~within next~~ ^{time} ~~few days~~. Please keep me informed if there are other difficulties.

3) Warm regards.

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FOR BORG/ADAMS PLEASE PASS ROBERT OAKLEY

FROM: LT. GEN. BRENT SCOWCROFT

REF: HAKTO 48

1. Restricted Presidential Determination, as you know, authorized all types of training. Following its signature, however, it was held at your and Clint Granger's suggestion pending a finding by the Secretary during this trip that it might be possible to proceed forward with an unrestricted Determination which would permit us greater flexibility in the future to deal with other Egyptian military requests.
2. The present restricted Determination is therefore in suspense. Defense is extremely reluctant to proceed with planning for training, including concrete talks with Egyptians, without the direct authorization the present Determination provides.
3. As I see it, there are three possible courses of action: a) to release the present Determination to give DOD the authorization it requires to proceed with planning; b) to continue to hold both the Determination and planning for Egyptian Army training in the expectation that an unrestricted Determination may be issued following the current trip; c) to recommend to the President that he sign an unrestricted Determination now. Each

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course presents its special problems, with which you are familiar.

If you believe that action is required now, you will need to raise matter with the Secretary to ascertain which of above recourses he would prefer.

4. Warm regards.

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02-THNEJ

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FM DAMASCUS//HAKTO 04377

TO THE SITUATION ROOM

S E C R E T

MARCH 15, 1975

HAKTO 48

TO: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: ROBERT OAKLEY

SUBJECT: TRAINING FOR THE EGYPTIAN ARMY

1. THE QUESTION OF U.S. TRAINING FOR THE EGYPTIAN ARMY REMAINS STUCK ON DEAD CENTER. AMBASSADOR EILTS AND GEORGE GUAY TELL ME THAT THE EGYPTIANS ARE INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THE U.S. IS DELIBERATELY STALLING SINCE THERE HAS BEEN NO VISIBLE ACTION ON EVEN THE SIMPLEST REQUESTS.

2. AFTER TALKING TO GUAY AND EILTS AND LOOKING AT THE THICK FILE OF MESSAGES BACK AND FORTH WITH DOD, THE SITUATION APPEARS TO BE AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE EGYPTIANS LONG AGO REQUESTED SLOTS FOR TWO OFFICERS AT RANGER TRAINING AND A FEW ADDITIONAL SLOTS FOR SIGNALS TRAINING. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN MORE PRECISE ABOUT SIGNALS BECAUSE GUAY IS UNDER ORDERS NOT TO TALK TO THEM ABOUT WHAT SPECIFIC COURSES ARE AVAILABLE. GUAY'S LONG-AGO REQUEST FOR MANUALS HAS NEVER BEEN MET.

B. DOD IS STAFFING A STUDY OF WHAT EGYPT MIGHT NEED AND IS CONSIDERING SENDING A TEAM TO CAIRO TO MAKE A SURVEY BUT NO IMPLEMENTING ACTION IS BEING TAKEN AND GUAY IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO TALK TO THE EGYPTIANS ABOUT ANY KIND OF TRAINING SINCE DOD SAYS (AS OF MARCH 4) THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION IS STILL PENDING.

C. HAK TOLD SADAT AND GAMASY ON THE LAST TRIP THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD APPROVED TRAINING WITH NO RESTRICTIONS.

D. AMBASSADOR EILTS AND GUAY VERY STRONGLY URGE THAT DOD AUTHORIZE GUAY TO TALK TO THE EGYPTIANS AT ONCE IN ORDER FIRST TO GET A CLEAR READING ON THEIR DESIRES FOR SIGNALS TRAINING. (HE HAS ENOUGH INFORMATION ON HAND TO DO THIS.) THEN THEY URGE EARLIEST POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT OF THE EGYPTIAN OFFICERS TO DEFINITE RANGER AND SIGNALS COURSES. THIS WOULD

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

SCOWCROFT, MCFARLANE, RODMAN, SEC FILE

RECALLED

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No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-65-1-3-5

NSC/B

1622X
(NSC Log Nbr)

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

LIMITED ACCESS CONTROL FORM (LAC)

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET
(Use std abbr)CLASSIFIED BY: _____
(Enter only when originated in NSC)EXEMPT GDS: SB SB2 SB3 SB4 Exempt Yr: _____
(These entries to be used only on NSC originated material)SUBJECT: Egyptian Army Training

FOR INCOMING MATERIAL:

TO Securint FROM: Geiger/Houston DATE 3/15/75

NSC STAFFER FOR ACTION: _____

ACTION RQD: com. item to

NSC STAFFER(S) FOR INFO: _____

Oakley w/H4K

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INDEX TERMS (Include, if applicable NSSM/NSDM #, Country(s) and/or Subject. ("Subject" will be modified to "nearest" approved category for computer input)):

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